FINES IN "RACE RIOT"

It is our belief that the fines imposed on eight Limestonians involved in the "race riot" of last August will meet with little comment one way or another, inasmuch as those events are now but dim and unpleasant memories of members of both the white and colored races.

As far as the criminality of those acts is concerned, the punishment is very likely commensurate with the office, but the community will be a long time living down the ill fame which resulted.

And there are doubtless those who will say that this mention of the regrettable occurrences of last August is unwarranted, but we must disagree. Instead, we believe that it should be a constant reminder to those who in the future would bring about a racial disturbance for any cause and thereby incur the condemnation of Americans everywhere.—Limestone Democrat (Athens).

11 Fined $80 For Ala. Riot

ATHENS, Ala.—(ANP)--Eleven of 15 persons, indicated by a special grand jury investigating riot cases arising from a racial disturbance last August, were fined $80 each in a non-jury court here last Wednesday.

The 11 fined were charged with offenses ranging from unlawful assembly and affray, to assault and battery and preventing peaceful exercise of business. Fourteen of those indicted were speedily arrested, with the remaining persons still unlocated. Fines were for $50, plus court costs of about $30.

Of the three remaining cases, two will be disposed of in non-jury court next month.

Mob Beats Up Speakers At Bridgeport Meeting

46a civilians (Conn.)

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

By Art Shields

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Nov. 17.—I saw fascist stormtroopers break up a workers' meeting and beat up speakers for civil liberties on the streets outside the hall, while police stood by and the mayor looked on. It happened to the tune of murderous lynch cries such as: **"Kill Jake Goldring** (Communist city secretary, who was severely beaten); **"Lynch that n----r"; "Get those long-nosed Jews," and "Smash their heads in."**

It happened only 50 miles from New York. Sun. 11-18-47

But the rioting thugs didn't scare more than 100 men and women, who braved the mob's fury and are planning a bigger meeting soon for Gerhart Eisler, German anti-fascist and Spanish war veteran, who had been scheduled to speak.

Nor did the hoodlum attack affect the plans of Dr. Frank Kingdon, Progressive Citizens of America leader and well-known anti-fascist, to speak at the Bridgeport Jewish Community Center's forum on State St., next Monday night.

VET LEADERS INVOLVED

The mob was organized by reactionary leaders of the Veterans Alliance, which represents the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and the Catholic War Veterans.

Many of the well-liquored hoodlums, however, had never fought in any war under American colors.

The mob violence actually began before the meeting. While Jasper McLevy, Socialist Party member, stood quietly by, the hoodlums began pushing, tripping and kicking men and women going in to Racoczi Hall on Bostwick Ave., where the meeting was held.

Nearly 150 of the hoodlums were marching belly to back round and round the narrow alley way leading to the hall.

Another 200 more shouted support.

COPS RECRUIT MOB

Police were actually recruiting men for the mob. I heard a cop, for instance, shouting to men to "Get in line or get off the sidewalk," and another cop was waving men in.

And every time a bold friend of civil liberties went through the hoodlums into Racoczi Hall, fascist shouts would arise: "We'll get you coming out!" "Beat him up," "Get that Jew," and "Lynch that n----r!"

The mob got more violent as it saw it had official toleration.

Several young amputees, who played the same role as some misguided **Mutiles** in Paris long ago, began disrupting the meeting when it started at eight.

They rapped their canes continually on the floor as Michael Russo, state chairman of the Communist Party, began speaking.

PART OF GANG

They were part of a gang of 18 to 20 men who had come in to disrupt the meeting with the support of the police. Sponsors of the meeting wanted to keep the disrupters, who had been shouting outside, away. But the police insisted they be admitted.

The mobsters stood up and shouted together, they sang, they stamped.

A brick crashed through the window as Russo was saying that the Communists and other progressives would continue to defend the Bill of Rights.

The police told Russo they wouldn't interfere as the shouting rose higher. New York, N.Y.

Capt. Lyddy, superintendent of police, however, promised protection to men and women leaving the meeting, as it was adjourned.

The protection didn't last, however, when we set foot on the street. The mob swarmed around us, cursing and slugging as Goldring, Russo, Milton Wolff, Abraham Lincoln Brigade leader, and War II lieutenant and others turned up a side street. Sun. 11-18-47

LYNCH SPIRIT

I wasn't hurt. The swings at me fall short and lacked steam. And the mob was mostly after Goldring and Russo.

Cries of **"Kill Goldring!" "Lynch Goldring!" rose higher. Suddenly the mob had him cut off, and he was being savagely beaten and kicked. One boot toe caught him square in the groin. But somehow he kept his feet and fought his way out.**

One cop running to help him was called back by another cop, who said. **"Dont don't help HIM."**

But Goldring kept his feet, Friends, who were also getting battered, were with him, and some cops finally came in. He got away.

Russo was beaten about the head meanwhile. Several other men too

A ministerial observer, whose name can't be used now, saw one man badly beaten. Daily worker

I spoke Superintendent of Police Lyddy at headquarters today.

"Are you going to arrest any one for this violence?" I inquired.

He hadn't any plans to do so, however. Sun. 11-18-47

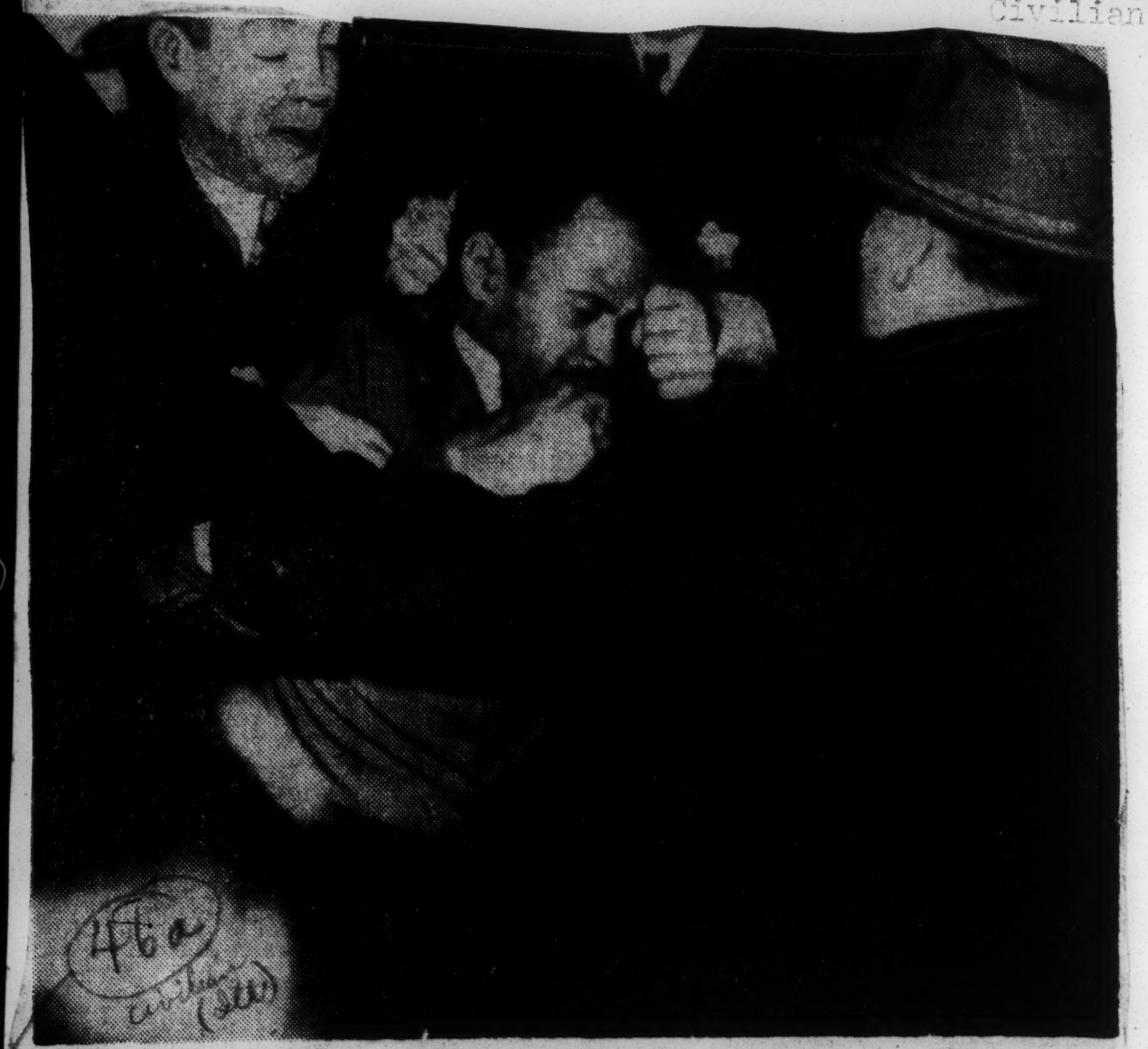
He said he couldn't have guaranteed Eisler's safety, if he had come to the meeting.

As an old reporter, who had covered police news, I couldn't accept that. His police were armed with clubs, guns and blackjacks. They just wouldnt use them on fascists.

Civil liberties in this war-industries city will have to be won by the people themselves.

46a 1947

Civilian (Illinois)



IN CHICAGO LABOR RIOT — More than 600 persons rioted outside the Cory Glass Plant in Chicago last week, 180 being arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and inciting a disturbance. Above, one of the demonstrators struggles with police officers from the labor squad. Afro-American, Baltimore, Md. 12-6-47

Courts Timid With Chicago Hoodlums

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Indignant citizens of both races are waging a relentless fight here to imprison the lawless whites who participated in the recent rioting against the seven Negro families of the newly constructed South Side veterans' Fernwood Project Homes.

A tendency of the courts to deal timidly with the hoodlums, who stoned Negro motorists and fought policemen in an attempt to drive the families of Negro veterans from the project homes, was criticized last week by white and Negro organizations, civic leaders and lawyers.

In Boys' Court, Judge Joseph Drucker continued the cases against 118 of the rioters until October, but reassigned the cases of seven adults to another court. Bonds posted by the 118 were returned on order of Judge Drucker, who also continued the cases of twelve more youths on disorderly conduct charges growing out of the riot demonstration at 105th and Halsted Streets.

Police explained that they arrested only the ringleaders of the demonstration. The maximum fine of $200 and costs in all cases was demanded by Special City Prosecutor Joseph A. Pope.

CHICAGO ROUNDUP

Three Beatings Add To Tension

While Chicago sways on the terrible brink of a race riot, with a score of Negroes beaten and their cars wrecked as they passed through the center of trouble, three other attacks have added to the mounting record of tension. A group of youths leaving a beach were attacked while police looked on; a mail carrier was mobbed as he left the home of a friend, and two whites brutally mauled an 18-year-old youth in the heart of the Negro community. Negroes who move out do so at their own risk.

Police Rout Hoodlums In Housing Row

Cars Smashed, 50 Hurt In 5 Nights Of Mob Violence

The presence of 1,000 city policemen and their forceful policy of wholesale arrest of white hoodlums who sought to continue their five days of disorderly demonstration Saturday night, over the presence of Negro veterans in the Fernwood Veterans' Housing project appear to have restored quiet and order to the area on Saturday night. The police, under the direct leadership of Commissioner Prendergast, made wholesale arrests of trouble-makers who sought to gather in the open fields in the vicinity of 103rd and Halsted street on Friday and Saturday nights, arresting more than 100 of them on each night. No serious effort to gather was made on Sunday night and the police ordered all taverns and other gathering places in the area closed as a further precaution.

Gang Wrecks Cars

The disorders first broke out on Tuesday night, after eight Negro veterans and their families moved into the project, along with 63 white veteran families. A crowd of over 2,000 whites sought to storm the housing area, but were repulsed by the police guard assigned to the project as a precaution. Ring leaders of the mob stoned the police, injuring four of them on the first night, but the police line stood firm.

Angered over their failure to gain entrance to the project, the mob swept over to Halsted street, a main southside traffic artery, and began stoning passing automobiles driven by Negroes. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights more than 100 cars had windshields and windows broken out by bricks and rocks thrown by the mob, and fenders and bodies dented and otherwise damaged. Some 50 Negro men and women were treated at the various hospitals in the area for cuts and bruises from flying missles and shattered glass.

Mayor Increases Guard

On Friday morning a delegation representing the NAACP, Urban League, CIO, Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination, Church Federation, American Jewish Congress, and other groups called on Mayor Kennelly to protect the outburst. The mayor reiterated his firm stand that Negroes had a right to tenancy in the project, and assured the group that the veterans would be fully protected and the rioters suppressed by firm and adequate police action. In keeping with his promise, the police detail was stepped up from the original 30 on Thursday night to 200 on Friday night, to 1,000 on both Saturday and Sunday nights. Backing the 1,000 man detail were 16 squad cars, two tear gas squads, 24 motorcycle policemen and six patrol wagons.

Rout Rioters

This largest police detail ever assigned except for presidential protection routed the rioters in the area on Saturday night, and restored order to the area and to traffic on Halsted street.

On Saturday night a truck load of white hoodlums sped through 111th street firing promiscuously, and wounded Navy Veteran Arthur Carter and his wife Willa Mae as they were returning home at 1152 W. 111th st. with their eight-month-old son. Mr. and Mrs. Carter were treated by a neighboring physician, who pronounced their injuries as not serious.

Negro citizens throughout the city have acted with restraint during the three nights of disorder. Ministers, civic leaders, and officials have counselled that they refrain from retaliation in order that the police may concentrate their efforts in subduing the lawless whites. Sunday night, Rev. A. J. Carey of Woodlawn AME church, and alderman of the Third Ward, was the guest of Rev. Clarence Cobbs of the First Church of Deliverance in the regular Sunday evening radio hour over station WIND. He praised the mayor and police for taking proper action to rout the rioters, and supporting the right of the Negro veterans to tenancy in the project. He urged that Negroes refuse to be drawn into retaliation and acts of violence, so that no share of the blame for the disorders could be placed upon them.

Reverend Reed of Arnett Chapel church in Morgan Park, who was himself stoned by the white mob on Friday night, left his pulpit Sunday night and led his congregation on a march through the Morgan Park area urging the Negro citizens to continue their refusal to become involved in the violence.

Tension Eases In Chi Housing Crisis

By JOSEPH A. BAILEY

CHICAGO—(ANP)— Mob violence by white hoodlums against law-abiding Negro citizens in the Fernwood area of Chicago's south side was brought under control by police last week. Public-minded citizens of both races, however, are actively formulating plans to prevent similar outbreaks in the future. Meanwhile, police are still on duty in the trouble zone as a precautionary measure against further violence. Only the self-restraint exercised by Negroes averted a major race riot.

Atty. Sidney A. Jones, speaking for the NAACP and the Cook County Bar association, said, "the critical problem in Chicago is one dealing with the right of Negroes to break out of their ghettos. The majority of the whites, however, feel that they have the right to prevent Negroes through the use of violence, from invading their areas whether in public or private housing. Violence continues because nothing is done. Negroes are not the agressors. The Mayor and other city officials must take an open stand for the right of a citizen to live anywhere his means will afford."

In a similar vein, Dr. Homer A. Jack, executive secretary of the Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination, said, "through all this trouble, the Negro community has acted in an exemplary manner and with rare restraint. If we do have trouble, it will be the fault of the white men—not the Negro who has too long suffered great discrimination in Chicago as well as in the south."

CAREY IN STATEMENT

Ald. A. J. Carey, Jr., (third ward) declared that "the trouble was the result of agitation and inciting to riot by persons in high places." Six days before the outbreaks against the families of the seven Negro veterans, continued Carey, "the alder-

to institute suits against the city. One city official, who preferred to remain anonymous, said that the police were not prepared for these unexpected attacks. Finding themselves overpowered by the force of numbers, they resorted to rerouting Negroes moving though the vicinity."

they were prepared to defend themselves. They chose legal methods instead. The mayor and the majority of the police did an excellent job despite the individual of certain who didn't want to restrain police were on duty." A few police were assigned to keep communities in the colored

man of the ninth ward said that if Negroes moved in, there would be bloodshed. Later, a newspaper that community wrote that there would be violence and that it would be the mayor's responsibility. What mob could ask for anything more?

"The disturbances at the Fernwood project added Carey, do not indicate that Negroes and whites cannot live together peace-

of the Negroes who were at ed by the hoodlums as they through the section on street or drove to work, are planning have been expected to do. Although cars or dr

Chicago Mayor Stands Firm On Housing Riot

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
Wed. 8-27-47

NEW YORK.—(SNS)—The firm stand taken by Chicago's Mayor Martin Kennelly during the recent anti-Negro housing riot, in which 118 persons were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, was lauded by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in a statement by the Association's chief, Walter White.

"We congratulate you on the firm stand you have taken against riotous attempts to prevent Negro tenants from the housing project. We urge you to continue to refuse to yield to lynching spirit . . ." declared the NAACP head.

The housing project, on Chicago's South Side, was opened to occupancy recently and when it was learned that Negroes as well as whites would move in, several "civic" organizations issued thinly-veiled promises of mob action. At the height of the disturbance, on August 15, almost 3000 persons milled about the area beating Negroes and breaking windows.

Forty families of white veterans and seven Negro veterans' families have been admitted to the project.

8-27-47 Wed.

wood Park Homes, followed the same pattern of violence which has existed before.

All those over 21 were held for question and those under were released on $100 to appear in Boys' Court on disorderly conduct charges, Monday.

Mayor Orders Strong Force

Street lights were broken and one officer was struck by a brick thrown from the crowd, it was reported. The project, which opened to tenancy Tuesday has been the scene of smaller protest assembleges on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Although Police Commissioner John Pendergast had posted a patrol of only 150 policemen in the area, Mayor Martin Kennelly, to ensure that no further disorder should occur, ordered 1000 policemen to be sent to the district.

Later Mayor Kennelly told a delegation of 30 persons, only one white, that the situation is under control and that there would be no further violence.

1,000 Police Halt Rioting in Chicago

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 8-23-47

CHICAGO — More than 1000 policemen were ordered into the area of the new South Side housing project here Saturday to disperse some 3,000 white hoodlums staging a riot in protest over the admission of colored tenants to the project.

Approximately 118 of the troublemakers were arrested at the height of a disturbance Friday night as stones were thrown through windows of the buildings in nearby streets and at streetcars.

FBI Enters Case

Fifteen of those arrested face questioning by FBI agents to determine whether their anti-colored demonstration was motivated by subversive elements in their community.

It was pointed out that the latest demonstration against would-be tenants of the project, the Fern-

Order 2 Probes In Clash Over Vets Housing

Chicago Defender
Ill.
Sept.

Mayor Martin H. Kennelly Thursday declared that every charge of police negligence and failure to act to protect Negro citizens who were assaulted by hoodlums last week during the disorderly demonstration in the vicinity of the Fernwood veterans' housing project would be thoroughly investigated.

He pledged that in those cases where the offending officers can be identified and the charges substantiated, immediate and summary disciplinary action will be taken.

A list of more than 20 cases which were reported by the victims to The Chicago Defender was presented to the Mayor, and any additional cases which may be received by this paper will be forwarded to his attention. The Mayor particularly asked that any of the victims of violence who noted the badge numbers of policemen who failed to act for their protection be included in the reports of such charges as a means of identification.

8-30-47

Seek Grand Jury Action

On the same day, State's Attorney William H. Tuohy promised a delegation headed by Dr. Homer Jack of the Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination to initiate an investigation of conspiracy to riot against the reported leaders of the Fernwood demonstration, with a view to presenting evidence to the grand jury.

He further promised to take action to bring charges of unlawful assembly and incitement to riot, both state charges, against participants in the disorders who were arrested by the police. The hoodlums who were arrested are presently charged only with disorderly conduct, and in most cases have been released without bond by Judge Joseph Drucker of the Boys Court, pending a hearing of the cases.

Lawyers and civic leaders in the Southside community have expressed surprise and indignation at the way rioters who have been handled by the courts. On Monday 118 defendants who had been arrested in the crowds which smashed the windows of nearly a hundred cars driven by Negro motorists along Halsted st. near 103rd st. damaging the cars and injuring a number of the occupants, received continuances until October, and their bonds were returned by order of Judge Drucker.

On Wednesday, Judge Drucker continued the cases of 14 additional defendants, charged only with disorderly conduct, over the protest of Special City Prosecutor Joseph A. Pope, who demanded the maximum fine of $200 and costs.

Jail 15 in Attack on 7 Families

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat. 8-23-47

(From Courier's Chicago Bureau)

CHICAGO—The scrutinizing eyes of the FBI were peering into the interracial flareup here Monday as agents made preparations to question fifteen white rioters arrested last Thursday following attacks on colored citizens in the vicinity of the newly-constructed Fernwood Park project homes.

The prejudice-prompted demonstration started after police had restrained a group of white hoodlums from molesting members of seven Negro families who had moved into the project last Tues-

day. Sat. 8-23-47

WAGE BRICK BATTLE

Blocked in this effort, the whites started throwing bricks at Negro motorists as they passed through the area en route to Morgon Park. Among the offenders was one woman, Mrs. Alberta Deerwester, 28.

As a result of the brick throwing, several colored persons were hurt and rushed to nearby hospitals for treatment of injuries. A police car was also stoned by the rioters and one of its occupants, Patrolman George Gervigan was hurt.

MAYOR ORDERS ARREST

As the result of protests by such organizations as the United Negro and Allied Veterans groups, who claimed that the police department would not arrest the violators, recently elected Mayor Martin H. Kennelly ordered the offenders to be taken into custody.

In the FBI's investigation of the incident, agents will determine whether the anti-Negro demonstration was motivated by subversive elements in the Fernwood Park community and its environs.

IS THIRD FLAREUP

The Fernwood Park rioting is the third which has occurred since Negro families have moved into project homes in the formerly all-white neighborhood in the vicinity of 104th and Halsted Streets.

Earlier this year, anti-Negro demonstrators kept two Negro veterans' families, from occupying Airport project homes after the wife and child of one of the veterans was fired upon by an unknown assailant.

A quickly recruited force of more than 500 policemen was required to stop a group of nearly 500 demonstrators from moving toward the Fernwood Park homes.

said they were attacked as they traveled in automobiles past the area at 103d and Halsted streets.

Chicago Sued For Injuries In Rioting

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
12-6-47

CHICAGO — (N N P A) — The city of Chicago was sued for damages of $80,000 in suits brought last Wednesday by nine colored persons who alleged they were injured during the riots at the Fernwood public housing project between August 13 and 20.

The plaintiffs contend that the city is liable for the injuries they sustained through mob violence. The project was the scene of several disturbances when colored families were being moved into the dwellings.

A. L. Williams, attorney for the plaintiffs, declared that none of his clients lived in the project. He

Postpones Trial of 118 In Anti-Negro Rioting

Daily Worker 8-19-47 Chicago Sun. New York.

By Ruby Cooper

CHICAGO, Aug. 18.—A continuance until Oct. 21 was today granted in Boys Court here by Judge Joseph Drucker to 118 persons arrested last week for staging riotous demonstrations against the occupancy of the Fernwood Housing Project by Negro veterans and their families. Acceping a report by Police Capt. Patrick Collings that the situation at the housing project had become "quiet," Judge Drucker gave the 118 defendants until Oct. 21 "to think over their actions."

The arrest of the 118 followed a series of demonstrations last week after 47 families, including seven Negro families, were moved into the veterans housing project, which is operated by the Chicago Housing Authority.

The mob violence reached a high point last Friday night when over 5,000 persons demonstrated at the project, smashing windows with flying rocks, seizing and beating Negroes in the area, and attacking a large police detail assigned to prevent disorders threatened in advance by property-owning interests in the community.

Mayor Martin H. Kennelly ordered 1,000 police assigned to stop the reign of violence after Friday's outbreak. 8-19-47 Sun.

The show of police strength and arrest of 118 of the most blatant demonstrators served to reduce the racist incidents over the weekend, although guerilla attacks continue in the form of roving cars.

Climaxing a three-month-long ineffective campaign to bar Negroes from the project by Calumet Civic Council, a property-owning group, and the Calumet **Index**, local newspaper, the anti-Negro demonstrations show every indication of having been organized in advance.

The Daily Worker learned today that a Negro maid had been warned by her employer three days in advance of Friday's riotous demonstrations not to appear for work on that day.

Further evidence was seen in the recruitment of many of the mobsters from other parts of the city, who when arrested gave addresses outside the community in which the project is situated. 8-19-47 Sun.

In a last-minute attempt to pressure Mayor Kennelly into abandoning the non-discrimination policy followed by the Chicago Housing Authority in assigning veterans to its project, the Calumet Civic Council wrote Kennelly on Aug. 9 that **"We feel that any local disturbance or violence resulting from the action of CHA would be your entire responsibility, as we have no control over individual or collective action."**

Numerous observers opine the violence is inspired by the real estate trust here, which has fought public housing tooth and nail. They cite a similar outbreak near the Airport Homes Project a few months back, and many attacks against Negroes who moved into alleged white neighborhoods.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE REAL ESTATE TRUST

46a Chicago Defender

The demonstrations against Negro veterans and their families' occupancy of the Fernwood Housing Project shows all the signs of being inspired by the real estate trust — that same trust which has fought for the preservation of restrictive covenants and violently opposed public housing.

There is one report that a maid had been warned by her white employer three days before the violent events of Friday not to show up for work that day. This would indicate somebody knew just when a demonstration was going to take place. It would reveal that there was nothing "spontaneous" about the storming of the housing area by several thousand whites. This thing was pla ed. Sat 9-6-47

By whom? Chicago, Ill.

The police and the city officialdom should find out the answer to that question and let the public know.

We know that the Calumet Civic Council has been campaigning for several months for the barring of Negroes from the Fernwood Project. We know that the newspaper the Calumet Index has supported the position of the Calumet Civic Council. What do these institutions have to say about the dangerous events of last week?

We believe that they should be questioned in view of the fact that the Calumet Civic Council wrote to Mayor Kennelly on August 9, "We feel that any local disturbance or violence resulting from the action of CHA (Chicago Housing Authority) would be your entire responsibility as we have no control over individual or collective action."

The Calumet Civic Council is, by its very existence, an admission of collective action. How, then does it disclaim ability to influence collective action?

Judge Joseph Drucker has continued until October 21 the case of the 118 persons arrested as a result of the attack on the project. The judge is reported to have continued the case until then in order "to think over their actions." Sat. 9-6-47

The danger is that many of them will have time to think up a new demonstration unless something more is done than a little thinking.

The situation locally and nationally isn't getting any better. The housing jam is getting progressively worse everywhere. Responsibility for intergroup conflict and immoral, unChristian attacks such as this is on the shoulders of those who assume to direct the destiny of the citizenry—the officialdom and the real estate trusts who hold up all building in order to keep rents at a maximum.

It is the real estate trust that is responsible for the unhealthy housing situation in Chicago. It is this trust which is the real force behind the Calumet Civic Council and the irresponsible elements let loose by property-mad, supremacist groups and individuals.

...suit of Housing Row

8 Mob Victims Sue City; Ask $80,000

Pittsburgh Courier, Pa.,

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Eight persons who were injured by mob violence near the Fernwood Housing project on Aug. 15 filed suit Tuesday for $10,000 each. The plaintiffs are Charles E. Rose, 35; Mrs. Emma Gideons, 47; Mrs. Ila Barnes, 36; Eugene Tookes, 27; Robert Gay, 20; Ermagene Tookes, 8; Donald Gay, 2, and Cheryl Barnes, 1.

The complaint, filed by Sidney A. Jones Jr., attorney for the injured persons, alleges that about 11:30 P. M. on Aug. 15, all eight were riding in the automobile of Charles E. Rose when they were attacked by a mob at 103rd and Halsted Streets. Sat. 10-4-47.

The complaint charges that the 1942 Oldsmobile sedan owned by Rose was completely smashed, and that all of the glass including the windshield and windows were broken as a result of bricks thrown through them by members of the mob. All of the persons, according to the complaint, were severly injured in the head, face, back and other parts of their bodies.

Under the law of Illinois, the city is liable to any person injured by a mob, up to $10,000.

Violence Can Be Averted

Chicago Housing Riots Follow Nat'l Pattern

By STETSON KENNEDY, Author of "Southern Exposure"

(Exclusive to The Pittsburgh Courier)

CHICAGO—The race riot which nearly came off at a new housing project for vets on Chicago's South Side recently was by no means impromptu or without precedent. It fitted into a national pattern from which a number of preventive lessons may be learned.

During the past two years 167 houses purchased by Chicago Negroes in so-called "white neighborhoods" have been dynamited, killing four persons and crippling eight (this beats the combined record of the Klan and Columbians).

Mr. Kennedy

About 80 per cent of Chicago's residential property into which Negroes might move has been brought under restrictive covenants barring all "non-Caucasians."

Prior to the recent near-riot, prejudiced persons had launched a "Neighborhood Protective Association" in the vicinity of the housing project, and the Mayor's Commission on Human Relations had countered with a "Good Will Council."

Although prejudice got a head start on good will, the Mayor's Commission must be credited with the prompt assignment of adequate police, and the arrest of a considerable number of would-be rioters, thus preventing its spread.

SUCCESSFUL START

A few months ago the Mayor's Commission was altogether successful in paving the way for peaceful opening of a non-discriminatory housing project. Neighborhood ministers, the Parent-Teacher Association, librarians, and park police were brought into a Good Will Council, and on opening day a vets' organization set up a "Welcome Vets" trailer canteen, serving free hot dogs and coffee to incoming white and Negro families alike.

And so the ice was broken, and there has been no friction since. The Negro children were promptly invited to join the Scouts; and their parents to join the churches. Which proves that democracy can win when it gets there "fustest with the mostest."

REHEARSAL TO RIOTING

This summer, on my first night in Chicago, I attended a prelude to the recent near-riot. Told that a white mob had been stoning a house purchased by a Negro (father of two vets), I loaded my camera and went out. The camera narrowly escaped destruction in the course of the evening, with the mob putting even my police escort to flight; but that's another story.

The police wouldn't let me drive into the street where the house was situated, so I walked in. The mob began to form at dark, and the street lights were soon put out with stones, with no objection from the fifty cops stationed in the block.

All the windows had been broken out of the Negro's house. The mobsters passed whiskey botles around, while their women sat on their porches and urged them on. Gangs of teen-aged boys patrolled the street on bicycles.

COLUMBIANISM IN CHI

On every hand I heard the same "horror stories" I had heard the Klan and Columbians spread among similar mobs in Atlanta: "It was a Jew who sold the house to him!". "They're going to turn it into a rooming house!" etc.

A lone car turned into the street, to be met with a terrific shout and hail of bricks when it was discovered that it was driven by a Negro. I wonder why the cops let the Negro turn into the street, after having stopped me. I soon knew the answer.

"Did you let him have it?" a cop asked the kids, as if he hadn't seen it. "Sure!" they said. "The dirty b——— asked for it!" said the cop.

"What you people need is an organization," another cop suggested.

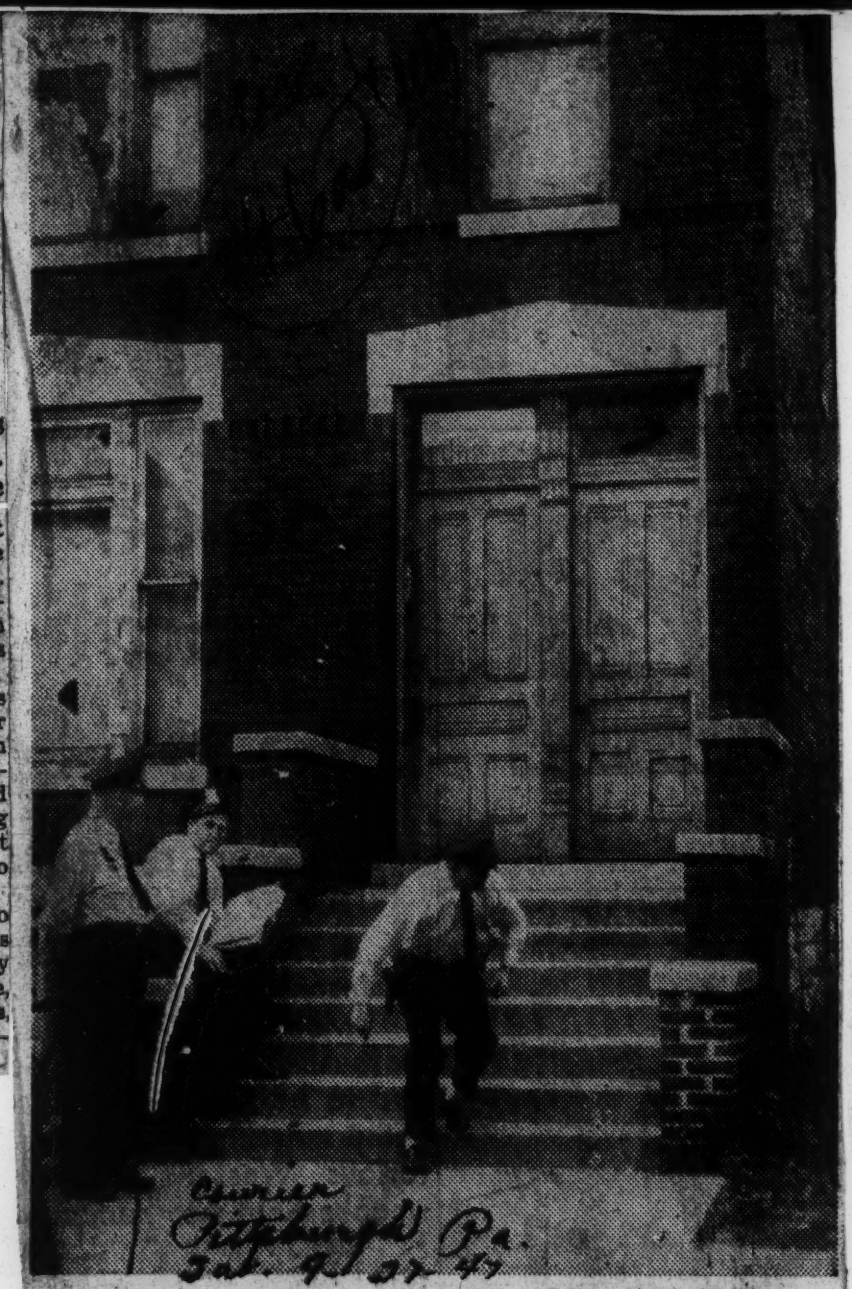
"If you people would just go back in your houses they'd call us off and you could come out and tear the house down," said a third officer of the law.

These policemen, obviously had no training in race relations. On the other hand, Chicago's park police have had such training, with very good results.

The Mayor's Commission kept close tabs on the hot spot I have described, with excellent results. Because of its observer, three rioters were arrested, a policeman suspended, and the street lights kept burning thereafter.

And when the would-be rioters sent a delegation to air their prejudices before Mayor Martin Kennelly, he called in his Commission, which actually persuaded the delegation to give up rioting and pay a friendly visit to get acquainted with their Negro neighbor!

Of course the basic solution to interracial scraps over housing is to build more non-discriminatory public housing. In Chicago alone, 178,000 vets are looking for homes, with only 3,400 units available—and some of those not yet.



CHICAGO . . . 1947—Note windows smashed by mobsters during attack on home recently purchased by Negroes in one of Chicago's so-called "white neighborhoods."—Stetson Kennedy Photo.

Civilian (Missouri)

One Killed, Others Hurt In Riot Call Gun Battle

(46a Civilian (Mo.))

World Atlanta, Ga. Inc. 12-30-47

ST. LOUIS—(NNPA)—The fatal shooting of a colored man by a policeman in a tavern at 2817 Easton Avenue last Friday, and the resulting demonstration by 150 enraged colored customers forced officers to send out a riot call.

Three detectives — Lieutenant Jake Joseph, Sergeant John Sieloff and Guy Livingston — were struck by missiles, including ash trays, knives, beer and whisky bottles, after they arrived to help five patrolmen who were trying to hold the crowd at bay. About forty officers answered the riot call. 12-30-47

The man killed was identified as James Taylor, 25 years old, formerly of 2710 Thomas Street. Police said he fired several shots at Corporal Fred Beckmann and Patrolman Leo Stewart as they walked up to inquire why Taylor was being led, bleeding, from the tavern at 1:25 a. m.

IGNORED ORDER

When Taylor ignored Stewart's command to "drop the gun," the two officers pulled their revolvers and returned the fire, they said. Taylor ran back into the tavern, still shooting, and collapsed.

Police said the tavern was jammed with customers who, not aware of what occurred outside immediately showed hostility and began making threats and throwing objects.

Beckman and Stewart, together with Patrolmen Jos. Bischoff, Edgar Schhelting Jr. and Robert Hawkins, stood side by side at the front of the tavern and faced the crowd until assistance was obtained. 12-30-47

FIVE POLICE ON HAND

Police had gone to the tavern, known as the Silver Slipper, earlier to investigate a report that a man named Taylor had been flourishing a revolver. At that time they could find no one answering the man's description. The five officers had returned, seeking further information, when they saw Taylor emerging.

Two other colored men were wounded in the shooting. They were Willie Douglas, laborer, 2711 Stoddard street, who is in Homer G. Phillips hospital with wounds of the hip and foot, and John Washington, 2915 Lawton boulevard, treated for a wound in the left hip.

Forty persons were booked for investigation following the disturbance.

Six Injured In Near-Riot

9-27-47

(46a Civ. (N.Y.)

NEW YORK—Six persons were injured at 2:30 A. M. last Saturday in a street fight in front of Manhattan Center involving more than 100 Negroes and white persons. Pittsburgh Courier

Police said the Townsman Association, a Negro organization, had a dance in one of the small ballrooms of the Center, Thirty-fourth Street and Eighth Avenue, while the Chelsea Merry-Makers Social Club used the main ballroom for a dance. The two dances ended about the same time and a fight started in the street.

Policemen from the West Twentieth Street station, the West Thirtieth Street station and an emergency squad from the West Fifty-fourth Street station were sent to the scene.

The injured were: 7a.

William Schaefer, 25, white, of 259 West Twelfth Street, cut on right thigh and forehead; Francis Lotito, 24, white, of 252 West Sixteenth Street, cuts on the right arm, face and head; both in French Hospital.

Milton Larkin, 36, Negro, of 209 West 148th Street, possible skull fracture and possible brain concussion; Lester Brown, 34, Negro, of 457 West 157th Street, possible brain concussion; both in St. Vincent Hospital.

Carl Bardi, 27, white, 139 West Forty-sixth Street, bruised left hand; Edward Bell, 36, Negro, 421 Manhattan Avenue, bruises of the left leg and a cut upper lip; both treated by a doctor from French Hospital.

Mayor's Committee Probes Greenwich Village Violence

Daily Worker - Mon - 4-28-47
New York N.Y.

LT. STEVE KERR, white Army officer who resides at 34 Bedford St., is shown several days after he was beaten by hoodlums. The reason: a Negro artist lives in the same house.

A hearing on recent acts of racial violence in Greenwich Village has been called for tonight by the Mayor's Committee on Unity. It will be in Greenwich House, 27 Sparrow St. at 8 p.m. but will not be open to the public according to Dan W. Dodson the committee's executive secretary.

Daily Worker

Letters of invitation have gone to representatives of organizations and community groups. Besides these only the victims of the recent attacks, and police officials will be present.

Mon 4-28-47

In announcing the hearing, Dodson said it would be an "exploratory step in the investigation" and that "later procedures will be determined by the facts revealed."

Since last summer the Greenwich Village Civil Rights Congress has been active in combatting the community's rising racial terror.

Councilman Eugene Connolly, responding to the recent attacks, has introduced a resolution into the City Council providing for a special department of police to prevent and deal with racial violence.

New York N.Y.

Tonight's hearing will be conducted by David Sher, Thomas B. Dyet and Fannie Hurt.

City to Probe Attacks In Greenwich Village

Mon
New York N.Y.
4-28-47

An investigation by the Mayor's Committee on Unity of recent assaults on Negroes and their white friends in Greenwich Village will begin tonight with a hearing at Greenwich House, 27 Barrow St.

The hearing will not be open to the public, Dan W. Dodson, executive director of the Committee said. He explained it would be "an exploratory step in the investigation, and as a consequence is limited to community leadership, police officials, and the victims in the incidents." The hearing will be conducted by a subcommittee of three: David Sher, Thomas B. Dyett and Fannie Hurst.

The Committee's action grew out of the beating Apr. 11 of U. S. Army Lt. Steve Karr and his wife, who sublet part of an apartment at 34 Bedford St. from Charles White, a Negro artist. White and a Negro friend also were assaulted on Apr. 12. A dozen other similar incidents have occurred in the Village in the past year.

Mon 4-28-47

The Greenwich Village chapter of the Civil Rights Congress, which has been mobilizing Village organizations for co-ordinated action to stop the racial assaults, offered to turn over its program to the Mayor's Committee's "providing it will agree that positive action is necessary."

City Councilman Eugene Connally is expected to attend the hearing in support of his plan to set up a special race relations quad of plain clothesmen in the ce Dept.

Hint Landlords Inspired 'Village' Racial Attacks

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.
Wed. 4-30-47

By John Hudson Jones

The possibility that Greenwich Village real estate interests inspired recent attacks on Negroes was raised at the hearing called by the Mayor's Committee on Unity Monday night at Greenwich House, 27 Barrow St. The hearing conducted by a sub-committee appointed to investigate the recent attacks was urged to look into this angle, by the Rev. Elbert Tingley pastor of Judson Memorial Church; Professor Frederick M. Thrasher, New York University; and Clifford Davis, New York Civil Rights Congress representative.

This idea came in open discussion after about 50 representatives of 20 Greenwich Village group organizations and the Police Dept. had heard five victims describe attacks made on them by hoodlums.

They were Lieut. Steve Karr, his wife Norma, of 34 Bedford St., and Michael Murphy, all white, who were set upon April 11 on the sidewalk in front of their house. Then Charles White, Negro artist of the same address, and David MacAdoo of 45 McDougal St. told of being attacked in the Cube Steak House, 321 Avenue of the Americas on April 12 The Karrs shared the upper floor of White's two story house.

They all accused the police of dereliction of duty as charged by the Daily Worker in a special article last week. The night that Lt. Karr was attacked and sustained a fractured nose, police were called three times and failed to appear, and when White and MacAdoo were attacked they charged that the patrolman failed to protect them from the hoodlum who continued to kick and strike at them in the cop's presence.

Prof. Thrasher recalled that "in Chicago it was proved realty interests raised a $25,000 fund to keep Negroes out of Hyde Park." This "possibility should be looked into here," he urged.

Rev. Tingley's idea parallels this. He reminded the committee that landlords consider real estate values as depreciated when occupied by Negroes. And when Davis presented documented cases of 13 attacks since Aug. 11, 1946, he declared they might be inspired by a "migration of Negroes into the Village."

Daily Worker

Questioned by Chairman David Sher, Davis reminded the audience "Harlem is a ghetto with every sort of frustration." He thought that Negroes sought to escape from being "walled in."

New York, N.Y.

Defense of landlords came from Rev. Charles Howard Graf of St. John Episcopal Church, 224 Waverly Place. He said that his church owned considerable property and "I don't think it is the owner group who object to Negroes, it's the tenants." He then cast cold water on White's opinion that the gang organized are inspired by fascist forces. "If there are fascist leaders then there are those of the other kind who take the incidents and make the most of them."

Councilmen Benjamin J. Davis and Eugene P. Connolly denounced police laxity. Davis related how at a street meeting he addressed last week-end, a gang of boys repeatedly "tried to break it up." Davis said "a Negro's life isn't worth a nickel in the Village today."

Connolly urged that the Mayor's Committee support his resolution in the City Council calling for a special racial disturbance squad. He said there are bomb, narcotic and alien squads and that the city could certainly equip and train another special division for "this very complicated situation."

Wed.

Capt. Patrick J. Kirley of the Sixth Precinct represented the Police Department but would answer few questions. Everything was "being investigated."

Among the groups represented were the American Jewish Congress, the American Veterans Committee, the Lower West Side Council, the Greenwich House Association, the Jewish Community Center and several Catholic and Protestant Churches.

4-30-47

Near the end of the meeting a peculiar anti-Communist plea came from Bolta Torrey, a village resident. He complained that the "Communists always take the leadership in doing something about these things. Can't somebody else do something so that the Communists won't get all the credit?"

Thug Faces Indictment for Village Attack

.46a Daily Worker New York N.Y.

By John Hudson Jones

Sam Valinoti, racism hoodlum, was bound over to the Grand Jury yesterday by Magistrate Francis Giacconi. Valinoti, 25, a convicted burglar with a record of four arrests, is accused by Lt. Steve Karr of leading a gang which assaulted him on April 11. Also beaten were his wife, Norma, and a friend, Michael Murphy. Mem. 5-18-47

The Karrs share a house at 34 Bedford St. with Charles White, Negro artist. White and David MacAdoo, also Negro, were attacked the following night at Cube Steak House, 321 Avenue of the Americas.

Valinoti, of 270 W. Fourth St., a sullen, stocky man, was in court today after two previous adjournments. He entered the Polyclinic Hospital for an eye operation April 12, the day after he was arrrested for the assault. Lt. Karr had identified him as wearing thick bi-focal lenses. He was not wearing them today, but while talking to reporters he pulled them out of his coat pocket and showed them as evidence of his sickness.

On the stand yesterday, Lt. Karr told how he had gone to the door of the house, a remodeled store, after a loud banging on their plate glass window. Valinoti and another man, known as "Blackie," immediately set upon him. Then a gang of men ran from the nearby Bedford Street Bar and joined in the attack. They cursed Karr, and shouted "n . . . r lover." When Mrs. Karr and Murphy attempted to rescue him they were beaten also.

Defense counsel Joseph Aronstein cross-examined Karr for 40 minutes, and was up-braided by Judge Giacconi for "pointless questions." Karr was the only witness called by Assistant District Attorney Paul F. Riley.

At the close of the hearing Giacconi blasted the incident as "absolutely reprehensible."

"One of the worst symtoms in our modern society is that men can be whipped up into such hysteria," he told Aronstein and Valinoti. Mem. 5-18-47

Aronstein replied that "It's too bad the higher officials of our country don't feel the same way as you do. You should address your remarks to them." If the "higher officials" of "our country" are doing the "same thing" in international relations, Aronstein asked, what could be expect from private citizens?

He said that Valinoti was a victim of mistaken identity.

Bail of $500 was continued.

Outside the court Valinoti told reporters that he was at a Webster Hall affair that night, but that a fellow who could confirm this was "out of the city." He denied he knew anything about racial incidents although "I was in the Cube Steak about seven months ago when a colored fellow got into a fight."

In 1937 Valinoti was arrested for grand larceny, in New York but the charges were dismissed. In October, 1941, he was arrested in Florida for "breaking and entry," for which he was sentenced to five years in the State Prison at Raiford, Fla. In November, 1946 he was arrested for disorderly conduct in New York.

The Mayor's Committee on Unity is investigating the increase of racial violence in the village.

Present in court as observers were Nathan M. Padgug, counsel of the American Jewish Congress; Lawrence J. Gross, Jewish War Veterans; and Clifford Davis, New York Civil Rights Congress.

Negroes In Tennessee Riot Cases Cleared

LAWRENCEBURG, Tenn., Feb. 1 — (AP) — A Maury County Circuit Court jury Friday returned a verdict of innocent in the new trial of two Negroes charged with intent to commit murder in racial disturbances at Columbia, Tenn., Feb. 25, 1946.

The two, John McKivens, 26, and Robert Gentry, 25, previously had been convicted on the charges and sentenced to not more than 21 years in the state penitentiary.

At the trial last October, 23 other Negroes were acquitted of charges growing out of the disturbances.

Dist. Atty. Gen. Paul Bumpus recommended the verdict, and no testimony was taken.

Columbia Victims Freed

Robert Gentry and McGivens, the only defendants found guilty in the trials arising from last February's bloody Columbia, Tenn., "riot," were free men yesterday. Attorney General Paul Bumpus, raving prosecutor who tried to send 30 Negro citizens to the penitentiary for defending their lives, was force to make the motion for acquittal before a Lawrenceburg, Tenn. jury.

Gentry and McGivens had been sentenced to 21 years after a trial which brought national condemnation on the courts of Tennessee.

No Negroes are now under conviction for the bloody events of almost a year ago. But no charges have yet been brought against the state highway patrolmen, state guards and police who machine-gunned and looted the Negro section of Columbia, arrested over 100 citizens, and slew two men in jail.

Columbia street scene; the Negroes were freed . . when will the armed thugs face trial?

The "riot" began when a lynch mob threatened James Stephenson, young Navy yet who defended his mother in an altercation with a white businessman. The Stephensons were spirited out of town, A party of police, some of them exposed by Daily Worker reporter Harry Raymond as the associates of lynchers, invaded the district and were repelled with some shotgun pellets.

The sacking of the Negro quarter followed. The state government tried to justify the night's work by bringing 30 respectacle Negro citizens to trial on charges ranging to attempted murder. A brilliant and courageous defense by NAACP attorneys Z. Alexander Looby, Leon Ransom, Maurice Weaver and Thurgood Marshall won acquittal for 23 of the first 25 to be tried.

The Daily Worker and the Communist Party were early in giving the case wide coverage and in fighting for the release of the defendants and the prosecution of the uniformed hoodlums and killers.

Walter White, NAACP executive secretary, emphasized yesterday that "the fight is not over." Seven more Negroes still await trial on other charges growing out of the February struggle.

week.

The money, drawn from Governor McCord's emergency fund, went to pay Atty. Hugh T. Shelton of Columbia for his part in making investigation and aiding in the prosecution of the defendants. The report shows that on last May 27, Shelton was paid $6,500, with an earlier expenditure of $6,000 being made last Dec. 18.

All But Four of 100 Held In Mink Slide Riot Freed

NASHVILLE

Tennessee authorities, who rounded up more than 100 Negroes following racial disturbances at Columbia, Tenn., in February, 1946, have freed all but four.

Still awaiting trial are three Negroes charged with assaulting a white radio repairman in Columbia's Mink Slide district, an incident which is said to have touched off racial disturbances which continued through two days.

The fourth is a man convicted of assaulting a policeman. This case is now before the State Supreme Court.

Maury County Court cleared its docket of so-called riot cases with the dismissal of charges of carrying weapons against six men. Last Fall, the trial of 25 Negroes at Lawrenceburg resulted in 23 acquittals and two convictions both of which were dismussed after new trials had been ordered. Two Negroes were killed by police in the Columbia jail, a few days after the disorder, allegedly while trying to escape.

Riot Trials Expensive!

COLUMBIA, Tenn.—(ANP) — It cost the State of Tennessee $12,500 to provide for special prosecution counsel to handle the investigation and bring to trial the twenty-five Negroes, allegedly the ringleaders in the "Mink Slide" rioting at Lawrenceburg early last year, according to a report made here this

All But Four Freed in '46 Tenn. Riot Round-Up of 100

NASHVILLE—(ANP) — Only four of the 100 colored citizens rounded up following the racial disturbances at Columbia, Tenn., in February, 1946, are still in police custody. Three awaiting trial on charges of assaulting a white radio repairman in Columbia's Mink Slide district.

The case of the fourth man, convicted of assaulting a policeman, is being reviewed by the State supreme court. Last fall, 25 were tried at Lawrenceburgh, and 23 won acquittals. The two convicted were later released. Two colored persons were killed by police in the jail, a few days after the disorder.

Blame Whites' Refusal To Eat With Negroes

GI Prisoner Outbreak Results In One Death And Several Injuries

BULLETIN!

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan.—A board of inquiry has been assembled here to make a complete investigation of circumstances surrounding the riot between Negro and white prisoners at the Army disciplinary barracks here. Findings of the board, it is reported, will be forwarded to the War Department in Washington, D.C.

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kans.—With the exception of damaged cell blocks, a dead man, and several injured guards and prisoners, things were back to normal Monday at the Army disciplinary barracks here following a 22-hour race riot.

Being held in solitary confinement were 37 Negro prisoners and an undetermined number of whites alleged to have been ringleaders in the outbreak of violence that stemmed from the refusal of white prisoners to eat in the same dining hall with Negro prisoners.

Eat Together

However, Monday, the men, reportedly "meek" after undergoing a seige of tear gas and clubs, were all eating in the same dining hall as has been the custom for years.

Dead as a result of the rioting, allegedly trampled to death, was Dewey D. Osborne, white, of Mountain City, Tenn.

Whites Start Trouble

Injured were S-Sgt. Robert L. Liza, white, New Orleans, stabbed in the back; Eddie Woodbury, Tallahassee, Fla., stabbed in chest; Robert Lee Freeman, Chattanooga; E. C. Smith, Baltimore; Henry C. Turner, Columbus, Ga.; Paul H. Nelson, white, Kansas City, Kan., and Peter C. Valenti, white, Inglewood, N.J.

According to Col. Graeme Parks, who took over command Tuesday of the barracks where military prisoners convicted of serious offenses are confined, first sign of trouble came to attention of officials when whites Friday objected to Negroes eating at separate tables in the same dining room.

Actual violence, however, did not occur until later when a group of Negro prisoners on their way to the shower room reportedly attacked a white prisoner.

The Negro prisoners, according to reports, were immediately returned to their cells. However, before they were all locked up, whites, evidently having heard of the beating, invaded the Negro cell block and the rioting began.

Get Tear Gas

Guards soon exhausted the prison's supply of tea gas shells and a call to Kansas City police for more led to first public reports of the trouble. Reenforced guard details were finally able to segregate white and Negro prisoners who continued to create disturbances, doing considerable damage to prison property.

Early Saturday, 250 Negro prisoners who had been demonstrating throughout the night indicated their willingness to give up. It was not until Saturday night that 514 white prisoners surrendered.

Factors that helped quell the disturbance were the cutting off of the water supply and the denial of food to the men.

Court-Martial Slated In Leavenworth Riot

FORT LEAVENWORTH, KAS., Aug. 16.—(AP)—A general court-martial will convene here next Tuesday to try four white general prisoners accused of assault on a Negro inmate during the race riot at the U. S. disciplinary barracks last May 2, Public Information Officer Maj. Henry E. Triesler, Jr., disclosed today.

The defendants are: Coy V. Sauls, 22, Quinlin, Mo.; John Sanetsky, 24, McKeesport, Pa.; Joseph A. Ellis, 21, Knoxville, Tenn., and Elmer L. Cline, 22, Harriman, Tenn.

The four men are charged with violating the 89th and 93rd articles of war during the riot. The 89th article charges the prisoners unlawfully assembled and riotously committed assault on general prisoner Eddie Woodberry, 32, a Negro from Tallahassee, Fla. The 93rd articles covers assault with intent to commit a felony on Woodberry.

Negroes Sentenced In Prison Slaying

FT. LEAVENWORTH, Kan., July 31—(AP)—Three Negro inmates of the Ft. Leavenworth Army disciplinary barracks were under life sentences today, convicted by general court-martial of beating a white prisoner to death last May 6 during a race riot.

Five guards and six other prisoners were injured during the barracks riot, in which Dewey Osborne, 30, of Mountain City, Tenn. was fatally beaten.

The three sentenced to life imprisonment are Eddie O. Upshaw, 25, Birmingham, Ala.; Floyd J. Osborn, 27, Crystal Springs, Miss., and Herman L. Snow, Pittsburgh, Pa. The sentences also include forfeiture of all pay and allowances and dishonorable discharges.

A fourth Negro defendant, Archie Jackson, 27, of New York City, was acquitted of all charges in connection with Osborne's death.

The case automatically will go to a Fifth Army board of review in Chicago, Maj. Henry C. Thiesler, Jr., public relations officer, said.

514 White Leavenworth Holdouts Give Up Fatal Racial Rebellion

Atlanta, Ga. The Constitution

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan., May 3—(AP)—The Army disciplinary barracks commandant reported that 514 white prisoners who had been barricaded in their cell block since an early morning riot capitulated late Saturday afternoon and were being removed in small groups. Sun 5-4-47

Col. Graeme Parks, commandant of the barracks, instructed the men, over a loudspeaker system, that they were to leave the block in small groups, discard their clothing and move to a lower floor.

"Bring out your injured first," he instructed, "and if any of you do not want to leave, stand back and let the others do so."

The men had held out in a tear gas-drenched cell block more than six hours after a group of Negro prisoners had capitulated.

One of the white prisoners who previously had suffered from malaria, was removed to the prison hospital. There was no immediate evidence, however, that there were any injured in the race riot which grew out of objections of the white prisoners to eating in the same room with Negroes.

Tear gas had been poured into their cell block for hours during the rioting.

The Negro prisoners, 213 of them, surrendered and were removed this morning after Col. Parks delivered an ultimatum over the loud speaker system, warning that failure to comply would bring a concentrated tear gas attack.

The Negroes were housed in an unused cell block until their own cells had been cleaned and repaired, and were returned to them at double time at 4:15 p. m.

Half an hour later Col. W. A. Drownes, Supervisor of Prisoners, switched the speaker system to Cell Block 6, and instructed the white prisoners who wanted to leave to come out, five at a time, leaving their clothes behind them.

About 50 were removed in the first half hour.

Col. Drownes said some known ringleaders had been segregated and would be dealt with separately. Sun. 5-4-47

He told the men they had lost all privileges, including possession of pipes and combs, until they had proved they were on "good behavior" again.

A statement by Lt. Gen. Leonard T. Gerow, Commandant of Fort Leavenworth, of which the disciplinary barracks is a unit, said simply that the disturbance was "caused by racial trouble."

The dead prisoner was identified as Dewey D. Osborne, 30, white, of Mountain City, Tenn.

Injured were Sgt. Robert L. Liza, 34, New Orleans, white, a guard, and these prisoners: Paul H. Nelson, 25, Kansas City Kas., and Peter C. Valenti, 25, Inglewood, N. J., both white, suffering from head injuries, and a prisoner named Woodberry (first name and home town unavailable) stabbed in the lung with an ice pick; Robert Lee Freeman, 31, Chattanooga, Tenn., head injury and bruises; E. C. Smith, 37, Baltimore (injuries unavailable), and Henry C. Turner, Columbus, Ga., fractured arm, all Negroes.

Army authorities indicated four other guards were injured slightly, but did not require hospitalization. They did not name them.

The current trouble began smouldering Thursday night and resulted in prisoners being detained in their cell blocks until noon Friday. The Constitution

Col. Parks said because of the small barracks population and some renovating work, most of the prisoners had been moved into blocks 6 and 7, the former for white inmates and the other for Negroes. The main building is built with a large central rotunda with eight cell blocks radiating off like wheel spokes.

He added, however, that the more recalcitrant prisoners were not confined there, but in basement cells. 5-4-47

He said the trouble Friday morning began in "racial difficulties." Inmates of both blocks ate in the same mess hall, but had separate tables and separate waiters. Atlanta, Ga.

Man Stamped To Death; 11 Are Injured

Louisville, Ky. Courier-Journal Sun. 5-4-47

Fort Leavenworth, Kan., May 3 (AP)—The Army quelled a race riot in the disciplinary barracks here today after one prisoner was killed and five guards and six prisoners injured. Five hundred and fourteen white prisoners who had defied a surrender ultimatum throughout the afternoon finally capitulated.

Earlier, 213 Negro prisoners in another cell block surrendered after a night and morning of rioting.

The rioting grew out of resentment of white prisoners at having to eat in the same mess hall with Negroes and the smouldering discontent flared into disorders 48 hours ago. This broke into an open riot last night after three Negro prisoners attacked a white man in the shower room.

Hundreds of tear-gas shells were lobbed into the two cell blocks involved through the night before the Negro prisoners heeded an ultimatum by Col. Graeme Parks, barracks commandant, to surrender or be drenched in an intensified gas barrage.

Privileges Lost.

The white prisoners, in another cell block, ignored the ultimatum for 6 hours. The Army laid siege to their wing of the wheel-shaped building, cutting off water and withholding food until they capitulated.

When the break finally came at 4:15 this afternoon Col. W. A. Drownes, supervisor of prisoners, instructed the men over a speaker system to leave the block in groups of five, discard their clothing, and report to a tier on a lower floor.

The prisoners marched out in double-time, hands in the air.

The dead prisoner was Dewey Osborne, 30, Mountain City, Tenn., who was stamped to death.

The injured:

S/Sgt. Robert L. Liza, 34, New Orleans, a guard, extent of injuries not disclosed.

Eddie Woodbury, Negro, Tallahassee, Fla., stabbed in lung with icepick which broke off.

Condition critical: Paul H. Nelson, 25, Kansas City, Kan., head injuries; Peter C. Valenti, 25, Englewood, N. J., head injuries; Robert Lee Freeman, Chattanooga, Negro, head injury and bruises; E. C. Smith, 37, Baltimore, Negro, injuries not disclosed, and Henry C. Turner, Columbus, Ga., Negro, fractured arm.

Army authorities said four other guards were injured slightly, but did not require hospitalization. The Courier-Journal

The trouble began Thursday night and resulted in prisoners being detained in their cell blocks until noon yesterday.

Colonel Parks said because of the small barracks population and some renovating work; most of the prisoners have been moved into Blocks 6 and 7, the former for white inmates and the other for Negroes. The main building is built with a large central rotunda with eight cell blocks radiating off like wheel spokes. Inmates of both blocks ate in the same mess hall, but whites and Negroes had separate tables and separate waiters. 5-4-47

"Friday morning," Colonel Parks said, "Lt. Col. W. A. Downes reported to me that the inmates in 6 would not go to breakfast. I told him to tell them they would go now or go without food. 5-4-47

"They still refused to go and then locked the inner door of the wing and began tearing the place to pieces."

At 9 a.m., the colonel said, three men came to the grill on No. 6 and wanted to talk, but "I told them 'only on my terms,' which were that they come out in small groups, clean up the block, be searched, and go to breakfast." 5-4-47

To this they agreed. He estimated that they had caused from $300 to $400 worth of damage in the block. Sun.

The major riot began last night, Parks told reporters, when three Negroes attacked a white man in the shower room. The man was injured slightly.

"A little later," the colonel said, "a turnkey reported that the door to No. 6 cell block was open and 'all hell had broken loose in both cell blocks.' Negro and white inmates were charging out of both blocks."

Army Jimcrow Caused Leavenworth Riot

By Abner W. Berry

Behind the violence that erupted at Fort Leavenworth last Thursday is the official Army Jimcrow policy, which fed the undercurrent of racial tension in the military prison.

Before the three-cornered battle between Negro and white military prisoners and their guards was brought under control Sunday morning, one prisoner was killed, a guard and six prisoners were hospitalized.

According to prison aides, the trouble started Thursday night when white prisoners objected to eating in the same mess hall with Negroes.

On Friday morning 514 white prisoners quartered in Block 6, a "white cell block," refused to go to breakfast. Lieut. Col. W. A. Drownes, supervisor of prisoners, said he reached an agreement with the white prisoners to go to breakfast. He estimated that at that time (Friday morning) the white prisoners had caused $300 to $400

Leavenworth Prison Life Slowly Returns To Normal as Probe of Race Riot Opens

Richmond Times-Dispatch Mon 5-5-47

FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANS., May 4—(AP)—The Army disciplinary barracks, scene of a violent race riot between white and Negro prisoners Friday and Saturday, was slowly getting back to normal today. No signs of disorder were evident as the prisoners filed into the prison mess hall for their morning meal.

Richmond Va.

White and Negro prisoners, eating at separate tables, were served together as has previously been the custom, and the cause of the riot which took the life of one prisoner and injured five guards and six other inmates before the disturbance was brought under control last night.

Honor gangs and trusty details left the barracks to resume their routine work today and, according to Major Henry C. Triesler, Jr., public information officer at the post, the rioters, all employed inside the walls of the prison, will be back at their work not later than Tuesday. Mon 5-5-47

Brigadier-General Harry L. Twaddle, of the staff of the commanding general of the Fifth Army, arrived at the fort from Chicago early this morning to assist in the investigation of the riot. General Twaddle and Colonel Graeme Parks, commandant of the barracks, conferred this morning, but withheld comment on proceedings.

Richmond Va.

Earlier, Colonel Parks said that an effort was being made to segregate the ringleaders, and that plans for court-martial proceedings would await completion of the investigation. Richmond Times

Meanwhile, work on the reconditioning of cell block 6, extensively damaged during the riot, is expected to be completed sometime today. Since their capitulation, the rioters have been held in temporary barracks.

The prison rebellion which grew out of resentment of the white prisoners at having to eat in the same mess hall with the Negroes, flared into a full-scale riot Friday night after three Negro prisoners attacked a white man in the shower room.

Hundreds of tear gas shells were hurled into the two cell blocks housing the rioters before the ultimatum of "unconditional surrender," issued over a loud-

damages, having shattered all the high windows with ball bearings taken from a broken lock.

These prisoners were influenced by Army policy which has kept a rigid policy of segregating Negro and white in Army institutions. Of all branches of the services the Army, through Secretary of War Patterson, was the only branch to oppose the Powell Bill which would outlaw just such Jimcrow practices as those now in force at Leavenworth. mon 5-5-47

VIOLENCE FLARES

At 4:45 p.m. Friday the supper meal went off without incident. The white and Negro prisoners ate in the same mess hall but at separate tables. Following supper, violence flared when a Negro prisoner retaliated, reportedly, to the anti-Negro acts of the prison population the day before which had gone unpunished by the authorities. A fight broke out in the showers in which a white prisoner was slightly injured. mon 5-5-47

A little while later, in a manner unexplained by the prison officials, the door to the white cell block (number 6) was opened and the turnkey on the block reported, "all hell broke loose." The 514 white prisoners charged the 218 Negroes. It was during this phase of the fighting that Dewey D. Osborne, 30, a white prisoner from Mountain City, Tennessee, was trampled to death. Later reports from the prison said he was stabbed. Seven others were injured at the same time. Daily Worker

Tear gas shells fired into the corridors herded the men into their cells where they continued the disturbance.

Meantime, in Cell Block 6, the white inmates had ripped out the plumbing, sinks and toilets, and water stood several inches deep on the floor. mon 5-5-47

TENSION NOT NEW

Joseph T. Bowen, Fort Leavenworth fire chief, persuaded the Negro prisoners to give up Saturday morning. New York N.Y.

Major General Leonard T. Gerow, Commandant of Fort Leavenworth, told the press that he thought the disturbances grew out of "racial trouble." The "racial trouble" was not of recent occurrence, according to an aide, Col Graeme G. Parks, the prison commander. He said that there had been smoldering racial tension in the prison since 1942. Daily Worker

The prison was quiet by Sunday night. Officials announced that 37 Negro prisoners were held in solitary confinement, and that an undetermined number of white prisoners were similarly held.

According to Army records the barracks were established to rehabilitate men for further service in the armed forces and to fit others for a useful civilian life. The present flare of racial violence growing out of official policy regarding Negro-white relations in the Army raises doubt as to the usefulness of such a program either to the Army or the civil population. mon 5-5-47

Most of the prisoners involved in the disturbance were on good behavior and were serving short sentences, mainly for being absent without leave. Only one percent of them had sentences as high as 20 years.

THE SWEEP OF PREJUDICE

Two items in the week-end news, one spectacular, one relatively minor, illustrate to what extent prejudice still stalks the world. A race riot took place in the Army disciplinary barracks at Fort Leavenworth. White and Negro prisoners had been segregated in different cell blocks. In the mess hall they ate at different tables. But white prisoners objected, and had been objecting since 1942, to eating in the same room with Negroes. The emotion that moved them is primitive and simple. A man in a disciplinary barracks has for the moment little to be proud of. He feels inferior. And if he happens to have been born with a white skin he may build up his self-esteem by looking down on others who happen to have been born with black or brown skins. Like any of the rest of us in a similar position, the Negro resents this attitude. Trouble follows.

The other item comes from half way around the world. Premier Smuts of South Africa has talked of welcoming "tens of thousands, even millions," of immigrants. Shortage of shipping and lack of housing are limiting factors easily understood. But a Capetown dispatch to this newspaper states another. The Nationalist opposition is campaigning "against Roman Catholic settlers." It prefers Protestants, "even if they are German." Democracy in South Africa, already mocked by the repression of the Negro and Indian races, faces the further handicap of religious prejudice. Unlike the Leavenworth prisoners, South Africans have much to be proud of. But there must be some uneasiness in their hearts.

We can't reason prejudice out of existence. But if we look at it closely we may see that its roots are in fear and self-doubt. Its enemies are individual courage and self-respect.

LEAVENWORTH BACK TO PRE-RIOT ROUTINE

New York N.Y.

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan., May 4 (AP)—The Army disciplinary barracks, scene of a violent race riot between white and Negro prisoners on Friday and Saturday, was slowly getting back to normal today. No signs of disorder were evident as the prisoners filed into the prison mess hall for their morning meal. mon. 5-5-47

White and Negro prisoners, eating at separate tables, were served at the same time, as has been the custom, which was the cause of the riot which took the life of one prisoner and injured five guards and six other inmates before the disturbance was brought under control last night. New York N.Y.

Honor gangs and trusty details left the barracks to resume their routine work today, and according to Maj. Henry C. Triesler Jr., public information officer at the post, the rioters, all employed inside the walls of the prison, will be back at their work not later than Tuesday.

Brig. General Harry L. Twaddle of the staff of the commanding general of the Fifth Army, arrived at the fort from Chicago early this morning to assist in the investigation of the riot. General Twaddle and Col. Graeme Parks, commandant of the barracks, conferred this morning but withheld comment on proceedings.

Three Convicted In Prison Riot

Pittsburgh, Pa. 46a Courier

FORT LEAVENWORTH, (Kan.)—(ANP)—On a charge of assaulting a Negro inmate here last May 2, three white prisoners in the U. S. disciplinary barracks were found guilty Thursday by the general court-martial. Sat. 9-6-47

In a riot here last May 2, one white prisoner was killed, five guards, four Negroes and two white prisoners were injured. The flare-up was the outgrowth of resentment by whites at having to eat with Negroes.

A fourth defendant, Joseph A. Ellis, 21, Knoxville, Tenn., was acquitted. Those convicted were Coy V. Sauls, 22, Quinlin, Mo., thirty years at hard labor; Elmer L. Cline, 22, Harriman, Tenn., thirty-five years at hard labor, and John Santesky, 24, McKeesport, Pa., twenty-five years at hard labor.

Let's Have The Whole Story

Black Dispatch

As usual, there was one little item left out of the news report that Negro and white prisoners were rioting at Leavenworth. Three Negroes are charged with attacking a white prisoner in a shower room, and the cause of the riot is attributed to disgruntled whites who do not desire to eat in the same room with the blacks. Oklahoma City, Okla.

Surely the thought is not suggested that Negro prisoners assaulted a white convict without provocation. What happened in the wash room before the fight started? What was said? It is important to know this before one can draw proper conclusions respecting fixing the blame. Sat. 5-10-47

It is the omission of such items of news as suggested above that always places the blacks in a bad light. On its face no one can condone three men of any color jumping upon another, unless, as the missing item of news might disclose, the attack was made to prevent a greater tragedy, and to preserve the physical safety of the three accused men.

What relationship did the fight in the shower room sustain to the eating imbroglio previously staged in the dining room? Are we to assume that three vicious blacks, without rhyme or reason assaulted an innocent white prisoner?

Prejudice In Prison

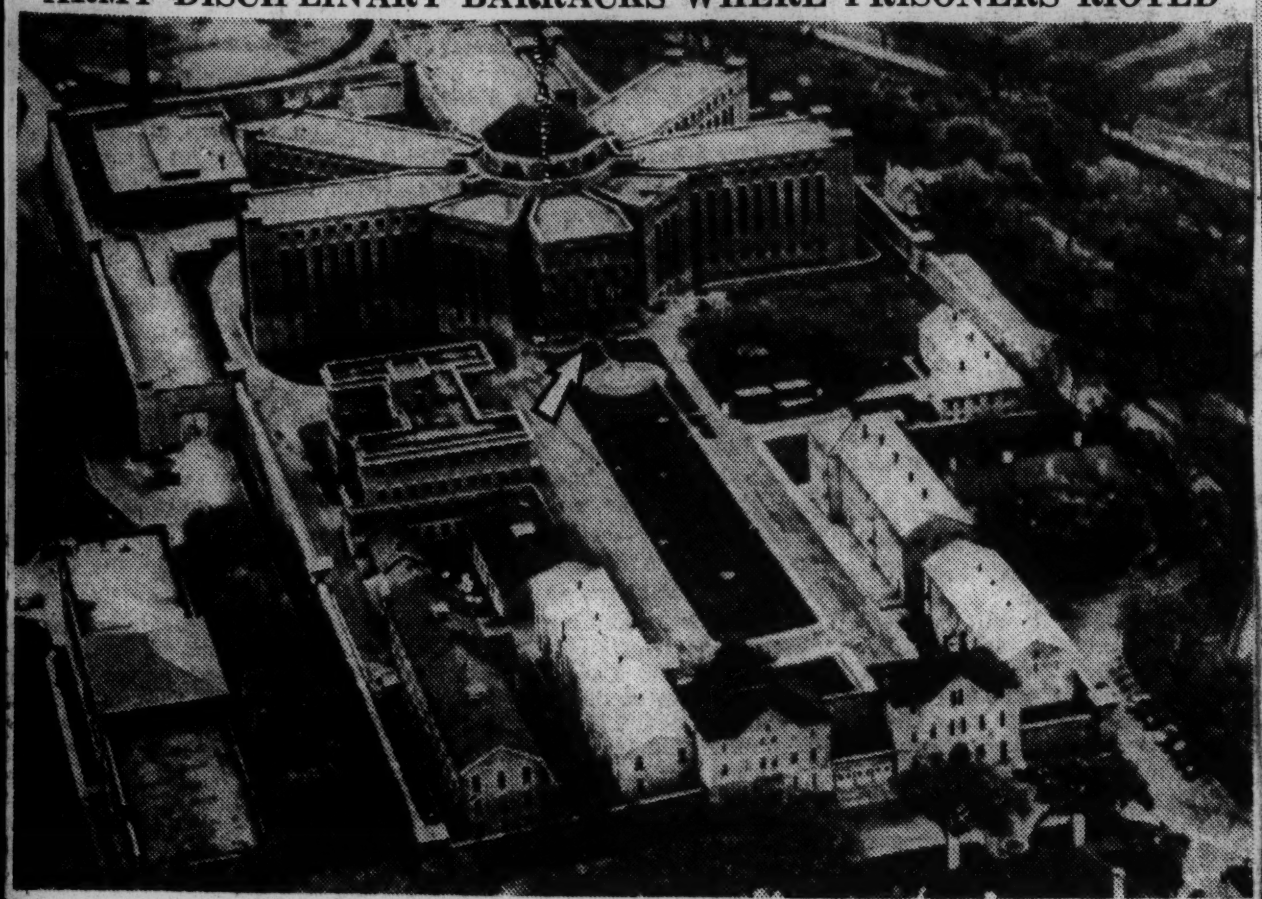
(The Christian Advocate) Wed. 6-11-47

The persistence of race prejudice in places and circumstances most unusual is a surprising characteristic in American life. It belies the preaching of those who proclaim that prejudice will vanish when everybody gets educated or gets rich or when all men are leveled by misfortune and suffering. Atlanta, Ga. Daily World Wed. 6-11-47

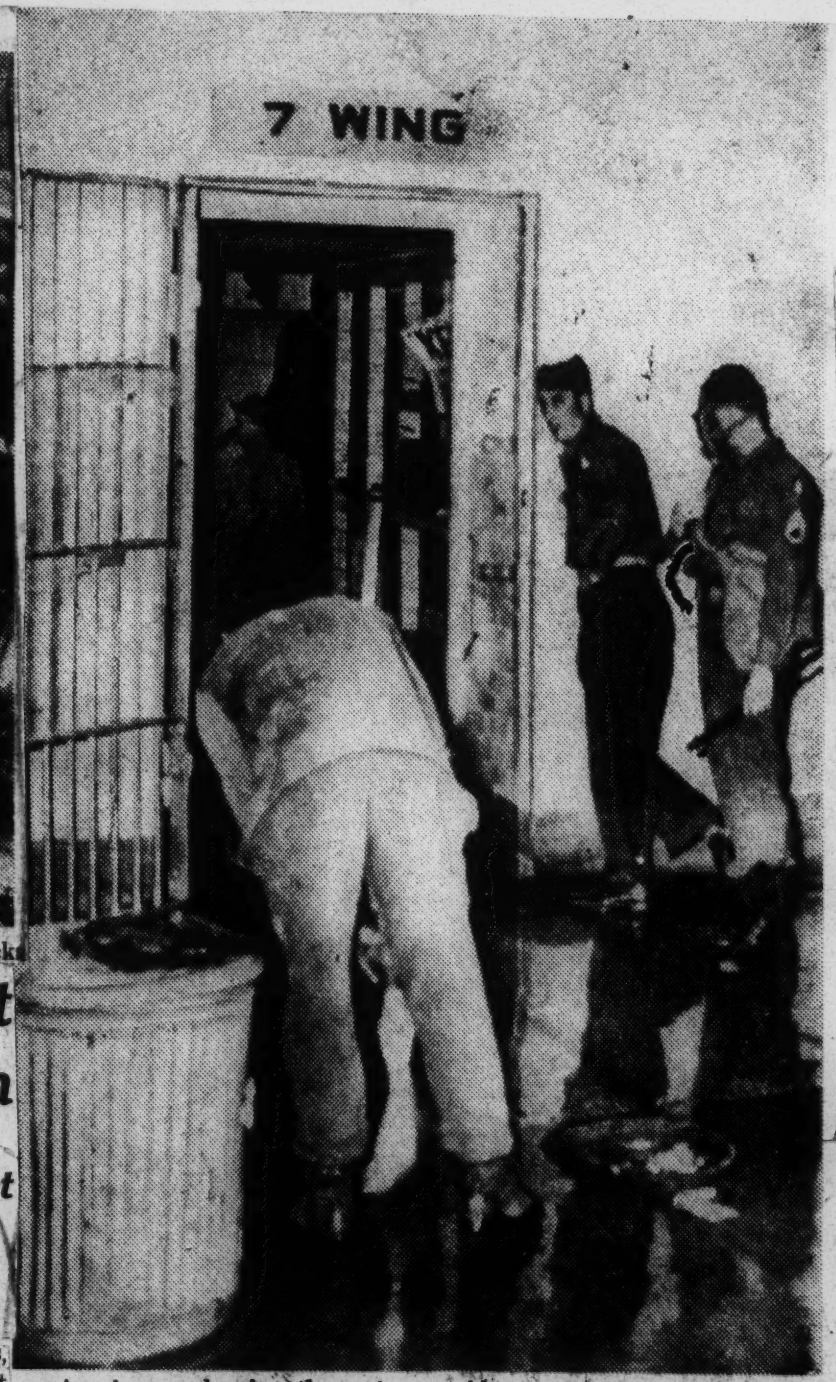
Now it has burst forth in a military penitentiary. Men serving prison terms for every sort of crime that can be committed in the army, except such crimes that ended in executions, retain their racial pride and hate in the midst of their degradation. They all are criminals, yet they kick against eating with fellow criminals because of color.

Of all the contemptuous depths to which racialism can sink the Leavenworth riot is an example of the deepest. Also it is a fine commentary on the foolish statements that many Negroes make that crime knows no color and that the color line vanishes as one descends the social scale. The fact is, it is the same at the lowest levels that it is at higher levels. Universities draw the line in dormitories and even in attendance. Churches draw the color line in membership and worship. Penitentiary prisoners draw the same line at the dining table. It is the same old color line, at the top and at the bottom, and it fades out nowhere. Among the criminals as well as among the saints the same color line is there. That is the message of the Leavenworth riot.

ARMY DISCIPLINARY BARRACKS WHERE PRISONERS RIOTED



Aerial view made yesterday at Fort Leavenworth, scene of disturbances. Arrow indicates door to cell block



A prisoner clearing the water outside one of the wings as guards, one wearing a gas mask, look on. Associated Press Radiophotos

Col. Graeme G. Parks, commander of the barracks.

Army Quells Night-Long Riot At Fort Leavenworth Prison

Inmate Killed, Six Others, Five Guards Hurt as Tear Gas Is Hurled to Put Down Racial Fighting—514 Hold Out for Six Hours

By The Associated Press.

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan., May 3—An all-night race riot at the Army disciplinary barracks was quelled today after one prisoner was killed and six other prisoners and five guards were injured.

The riot started with an attack on a white prisoner by three Negroes in the shower room. It was the result of a long-smouldering resentment on the part of the white men over being forced to eat in the same mess hall with the Negro prisoners.

Hundreds of tear-gas shells were lobbed into the two cell blocks involved through the night.

A group of 213 Negro prisoners, inmates of the barracks' Cell Block 7, surrendered after an ultimatum from Col. Graeme G. Parks, the commandant, who broadcast warnings of an intensified tear gas attack. Colonel Parks assumed his command only last Thursday.

Hours later, 514 white prisoners who had been barricaded in cell Cell Block 6, capitulated.

The Negroes were housed in an unused cell block until their own cells had been cleaned and repaired, and were returned to them on the double at 4:15 P. M.

Half an hour later Col. W. A. Drownes, supervisor of prisoners, switched the speaker system to Cell Block 6 and instructed the prisoners who wanted to leave to come out, five at a time, leaving their clothes behind them.

The prisoners were instructed to let any injured men leave first. Two required hospitalization. One had had malaria and another was suffering from an old injury. Both conditions had been aggravated by the tear gas.

Maj. Henry C. Triesler, public relations officer at Fort Leavenworth, said that the prisoners had damaged Cell Block 6 extensively and that the men would be detained overnight in another block. Sinks and toilets were torn out and broken. Water was several inches deep over the floor.

He said the men would have supper as usual tonight, with the same seating arrangements as before the riot—white and Negroes eating in the same hall, but at different tables.

Work will be resumed tomorrow by some prisoners whose records are good, and a full work schedule will be resumed Monday, he added. Barring unforeseen developments, he said, the barracks would be back to normal by Tuesday.

Colonel Drownes said some known ringleaders had been segregated and would be deal with separately.

He told the men they had lost all privileges, including possession of pipes and combs, until they had proved they were on "good behavior" again.

The men had held out in a tear gas-drenched cell block more than six hours.

Army officials said the men apparently had been attempting to hold out with wet cloths over their faces to serve as crude gas masks. All water was cut off from this wing and the men had no food.

A statement by Maj. Gen. Leonard T. Gerow, commandant of Forth Leavenworth, of which the disciplinary barracks is a unit, said that the disturbance was "caused by racial trouble."

The dead prisoner was identified as Dewey D. Osborne, 30 years old, of Mountain City, Tenn.

The injured included Staff Sgt. Robert L. Liza, 34, New Orleans, white, a guard, and these prisoners: Paul H. Nelson, 25, of Kansas City, Kan., and Peter C. Valenti, 25, of Englewood, N. J., both white, suffering from head injuries, and a prisoner named Woodberry, stabbed in the lung with an ice pick; Robert Lee Freeman, 31, of Chattanooga, Tenn., head injury and bruises; E. C. Smith, 37, Baltimore, Md., and Henry C. Turner, Columbus, Ga., fractured arm, all white inmates and the other for Negroes. The main building has a large central rotunda with eight cell blocks radiating off like wheel spokes.

He said that the more recalcitrant prisoners were confined in basement cells.

High Windows Smashed

The trouble yesterday morning began in "racial difficulties," he said. Inmates of both blocks ate in

Shower Room Fight Sparked Outbreak

Report White Men Resented Mess Policy False; All Served Since '42

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan.—A group of Army officers from 5th Army headquarters at Chicago, headed by Brig. Gen. Harry L. Twaddle of the commanding general's staff, arrived here Sunday to investigate a riot Friday night and Saturday morning between white and colored prisoners in the disciplinary barracks.

Previous to a preliminary conference between General Twaddle and Col. Graeme Parks, barracks commandant, the latter announced that plans for court-martial proceedings against the ringleaders would await completion of the investigation.

The riot, confined to Cell Block 6, colored (213 men), and Cell Block 7, white (514 men), was quelled by the use of tear gas shells.

Baltimorean Injured

One white prisoner was trampled to death, and five guards and six prisoners (four of the latter being colored), were injured.

Eddie Woodbury, Tallahassee (Fla.), was stabbed in the lung with an icepick which broke off; Robert Lee Freeman, Chattanooga (Tenn.), suffered head injury and bruises; E. C. Smith, 37, Baltimore, injuries not revealed; Henry C. Turner, Columbus (Ga.), suffered a fractured arm.

Fight Caused Riot

Contrary to earlier reports, the riot was not caused by "a recent order that white and colored prisoners should eat together in the same mess hall."

When Colonel Parks, a Texan, said the trouble began Friday morning in "racial difficulties," he had in mind a fight between three colored and one white prisoners in the shower room.

The white prisoner was injured slightly, and this lighted the spark for the rioting which followed.

Eat Together 5 Years

White and colored prisoners have been eating together in the same mess hall, but at separate tables, for the past five years.

This was verified by an unnamed aide to Col. Parks who said that the unrest "which led to the riot had been brewing since 1942."

This aide pointed out that the white prisoners had, on several occasions, objected to eating in the same mess hall with colored prisoners, although the latter eat at separate tables and are served by their own attendants.

This was the first time, he explained, that their resentment had flared into open violence.

Situation Under Control

The situation was almost back to normal Sunday when the prisoners filed back into the mess hall for breakfast. They were served together in the mess hall at separate tables as was done previously.

Maj. Henry C. Triester Jr., public relations officer, said the rioters will be back at their work not later than Tuesday.

Trouble Started Thursday

Col. Parks said the current trouble started Thursday night, with the result that the prisoners were detained in their cell blocks until noon Saturday.

He declared that most of the prisoners had been moved into blocks 6 and 7 because of the small barracks population and some renovating work. The more rebellious prisoners are confined in basement cells.

Refused to Eat

"Friday morning," Col. Parks said, "Lieut. Col. W. A. Drownes, supervisor of prisoners, reported to me that the inmates in Cell Block 6 (colored) would not go to breakfast. I told him to tell them they would go now or go without food.

"They still refused to go and then locked the inner door of the wing and began tearing the place to pieces."

Heeds Ultimatum

Col. Parks sent them an ultimatum to surrender or be drenched in an intensified gas barrage.

At 9 a.m., the colonel said, the men agreed to meet his terms: that they come out in small groups, clean up the block, be searched, and go to breakfast.

Damage in the block was estimated at from $300 to $400.

Whites Surrender

The white prisoners ignored the ultimatum for six hours, but the Army laid down a siege on their cell block, cutting off the water, and withholding food until they capitulated.

Army officials assumed that the prisoners were able to hold out in spite of the gas by improvising crude gas masks, using damp clothes over their faces.

After the fight in the shower room, another melee followed between white and colored prisoners who became mixed up while being escorted to the basement shower room in groups of 50.

Maj. Gen. Leonard T. Gerow, commandant of Fort Leavenworth of which the disciplinary barracks is a unit, said briefly that the disturbance was caused by "racial trouble."

Ringleaders in Custody

Col. W. A. Drownes, supervisor of prisoners, said some known ringleaders had been segregated and would be dealt with separately.

Col. Parks, 53, is a career officer in the regular Army and served in both world wars, being wounded in the last.

Defends Commandant

He assumed command of the disciplinary barracks last May 1, but Major Triesler contended that the riot did not, in any way, reflect on the colonel's treatment of the prisoners.

A delegation of three prisoners from the white cell block reported to Col. Parks at 11 a.m. Saturday that they were willing to eat in the same mess hall with the colored prisoners.

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the same mess hall, but had separate tables and separate waiters.

"Friday morning," Colonel Parks said, "Lieut. Col. W. A. Drownes, the supervisor of prisoners, reported to me that the inmates in 6 would not go to breakfast. I told him to tell them they would go now or go without food. They still refused to go and then locked the inner door of the wing and began tearing the place to pieces."

At 9 A. M., the colonel said, three men came to the grill of No. 6 and wanted to talk, but "I told them 'only on my terms,' which were that they come out in small groups, clean up the block, be searched and go to breakfast."

To this they agreed. He estimated that they had caused from $300 to $400 worth of damage in the block. Among other things, they had shattered high windows by firing ball bearings with rubber bands. The bearings had been obtained from a broken lock.

Yesterday afternoon passed quietly with details answering work call as usual. Supper, at 4:45 P. M., was orderly.

The major riot began last night, Colonel Parks told reporters when three Negroes attacked a white man in the shower room. The man was injured slightly.

Soon afterward another melee involved some white and Negro inmates who became mixed in the routine of taking the men to the basement shower room in groups of fifty.

"A little later," the Colonel said "a turnkey reported that the door to No. 6 cell block was open and 'all hell had broken loose in both cell blocks.' Negro and white inmates were charging out of both blocks."

It was in this melee that Osborne was stabbed fatally. The others were injured at the same time.

With the aid of tear gas the men were herded back to their cells, but the disturbance continued throughout the night. At 4 A. M. the Kansas City police received a call for tear gas. A second call was made two hours later. This was the first word of the trouble received outside the disciplinary barracks.

Joseph T. Bowen, veteran Fort Leavenworth fire chief, received a large measure of credit for persuading the men in Cell Block 7 to surrender.

He forced his way into a gallery, rigged up two lines of hose and called down to the men. He advised them to surrender and said he was prepared to turn on the water. The men said they were ready and asked for instructions. Mr. Bowen relayed the message to the guards, who instructed the men to come out into the open in groups of five and strip.

Colonel Parks said that thirty-seven, suspected of being ringleaders, were segregated and would be sent to a place of greater security.

Reporters Tour Scene

General Gerow took newspapermen on a tour of the prison. The smell of tear gas was perceptible, but it was not sufficiently concentrated at that time to affect the members of the party.

An aide to Colonel Parks said the unrest which led to the riot had been brewing since 1942.

The white men objected to eating in the same mess hall with the Negroes, despite the fact that the Negroes were served from separate tables and by Negro attendants. This was the first time, however, that it had flared into open violence.

General Gerow said a group of Army officers from Fifth Army Headquarters at Chicago were flying to Fort Leavenworth to begin an investigation.

Colonel Parks, 53 years old, is a Regular Army career officer. He served in both World Wars and was wounded in the second. The colonel, whose home is at Waco, Tex., was correction officer at Fifth Army Headquarters before being assigned here two days ago. He succeeded Col. Lathrop R. Bullene, who was transferred to Fort Preble, South Portland, Me., for recruiting service.

He was on duty through the night directing the guards and left to get some rest about noon, when the situation appeared under control. He showed plainly signs of the great strain of the night's events. Before the rest, however, he stopped to check up on the news dispatches, reading and listening to accounts of the uprising.

The disciplinary barracks has been in use as a military prison for seventy-three years. Some of the buildings are more than 100 years old, although most are of modern construction.

One large central building, "The Castle" to the inmates, houses the prisoners and the mess and recreation halls. It consists of a large circular central building, five stories high, with eight wings, similar to wagon spokes, radiating from this unit.

Other buildings are used as workshops and storerooms.

Latest figures give the population of the barracks as 1,213. It has a capacity of 2,000.

The institution was established as a military prison in 1874. From 1895 until 1906 the Department of Justice operated a Federal prison on the site until the present Federal penitentiary, two miles away, was completed. In 1915 the name was changed from military prison to the disciplinary barracks.

There have been escapes from time to time, mostly prisoners making a getaway from outside work details, but today's trouble was the first major uprising at the prison in recent years.

The Army describes the purpose of the barracks as "the honorable restoration and rehabilitation of its inmates; namely, to restore to honorable status in the Army those inmates who demonstrate their fitness for further service, and to discharge the remaining inmates in condition to meet successfully the duties and obligations of all good citizens."

The most recent figures available, issued two years ago, note that the largest percentage of violations for which inmates were sentenced was absence without leave. This group represented 44 per cent of the population. Twenty-seven per cent were serving sentences for desertion.

Sixty-one per cent of the prisoners were serving terms of less than five years. One per cent had sentences of more than twenty years.

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rioters in both cell blocks 73 years it has been in use. All
d windows, broke furniture, the guards involved are white.
smashed wi
up beds, and flooded the
by tearing out plumbing fix-
In the colored cell
was not as severe as that in
ite block.
t 1200 prisoners are con-
n the disciplinary barracks.
rth of them are colored.
riot was the first during the
Damage Heavy
The riot
cell blocks, where they set up a
din which lasted all night. Some
200 tear gas bombs were lobbed
into the blocks.
Damage
They were forced back into their
block was
the white
About 12
fined in the
One-fourth
Fight in Rotunda
It flared anew, however, during
the "privileged period" after sup-
per, when the men are taken in
It was at this time that two ripped up
They were permitted to go to
luncheon and later to supper. All forces began fighting in the rotunda
went well at both meals, and Col.
Parks said the ill feeling ap-
peared to have subsided.

46a 1947

One Acquittal, 3 Convictions In Riot Trial

Daily Worker
Atlanta, Ga.
Ft. Leavenworth
Sat. 8-2-47

Prisoners Get Life Sentences

46a

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kas. — (ANP) — Three Negroes were sentenced to life imprisonment and a fourth was acquitted on all counts by an army general court-martial here last Wednesday. The quartet was accused of beating to death a white inmate of the prison during a race riot that followed a dispute about segregated eating facilities here last May 6.

Receiving the life sentence were Herman L. Snow, Pittsburgh; Floyd P. Psborn, 27, Crystal Springs Miss., and Eddie O. Upshaw, 25, Birmingham. The acquitted member was Archie Jackson, 27 of New York City.

Sun-8-3-47

Major Henry C. Thiesler, Jr., public relations officer said the sentence includes also dishonorable discharge and forfieture of all pay and allowances and that the case will go automatically to the 5th army board of review in Chicago.

Five guards and six other prisoners were injured during the riot Dewey Osborn, white of Mountain Ctiy, Tenn., died the day following the riot.

Same Old Story

(46a)

American Sailors Riot in Sweden

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

Sat. 6-7-47

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Police declared a state of alarm in Malmoe, south coastal city, after a free-for-all between white American sailors from a Texas Liberty ship and Negro American sailors from a New York vessel had resulted in injuries to several combatants. The whites had objected to Swedish white girls dancing with the Negroes.

Several crew members of the Texas ship, the William K. Kamake, and the Booker T. Washington, the New York ship, were severely injured, and tension was still high in Malmoe, where the streets are being patrolled by reinforced police squads to prevent recurrence of the outbreaks.

Many of the Texans are married, and barred reporters and photographers from their ship, alleging that the Negro sailors would turn the pictures over to Communists in America, and their families in Texas would be persecuted.

The biggest fight broke out in a dance hall on Thursday night when the Kamake whites tried to stop the Negroes from dancing with the white Swedish girls.

Police have ordered white and colored sailors to frequent different dance halls hereafter.

46a 1947 Soldiers (France)

H6a-Soldiers (France)

WAR DEPT. TO REVIEW 'RIOT' CONVICTIONS

March 28, 1947

New York, N.Y., Mar 27th--The Adjutant General's Office of the War Department today informed the NAACP that the cases of General Prisoners William Gorman and Willie Bryant will be reviewed as soon as the necessary material is prepared. Press Service of the NAACP

The NAACP had submitted a brief in behalf of Gorman and Bryant maintaining that they were unjustly and unlawfully convicted and that the facts now before the Secretary of War show their continued detention is unjust and improper. New York, N.Y.

Gorman was sentenced to 20 years at hard labor and Bryant to two years at hard labor by a General Court-Martial at LeHarve, France, on May 17, 1946. They were convicted of participating with fourteen other soldiers in a "riotous and unlawful assembly," and of assaulting Military Police. Gorman was convicted of individually attacking one MP and attacking another in conjunction with two others.

At the trial, Gorman testified that he was in the hospital at the time of the alleged riot and this testimony was supported by a medical officer in charge of the time records of the hospital. Bryant said he had been some distance away from the area in the company of two other soldier at the time of the riot. Fri. 3-28-47

Three commissioned officers, among the witnesses for the defense, testified that at the time prosecution witnesses alleged that the riot was occurring, they did not observe any Negro soldiers in the field with the MP's, and that at no time did they see a Negro soldier strike any of the MP's.